The Southern PATRIOT

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THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE CHILD...AND OF HOPE

Never has the Child been a more appropriate symbol of the New Year. For 1954 is destined to be known as the Year of the Child.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the momentous school segregation cases before it, is not pondering the futures of old mystagogues who are on the skids or young demagogues on the make. It is weighing the hopes for happiness of children, white and black, who do not know the words "States Rights." Who only want Love.

If the court decision outlaws segregation in education—as we think it must—the harsh graven face the traditional South presents to the world will twitch with dismay. But in the fulness of time today's smiling child will take up the regional standard, still smiling—smiling with love for others with the radiance an easy conscience brings.

For is it the children who decide that friendship must end at the schoolhouse door? Did the children build the separate houses of worship to which, according to color, each must go to the Creator of All? How does a child's affection become divided among those playmates whom he can entertain in the backyard and those he can bring into the parlor?

The fretful hands of parents guide and check, and mold the child into their own fretful image. Not wittingly, not blamefully, for who can keep his house in order when the foundations are on a steep bias? Legal racial barriers breed mental blocks and social taboos; the democratic scene is made chaotic with the crazy architecture of class and caste.

Only the child, out of spontaneous, uncorrupted love, can rebuild this world. But to his elders lies the duty to give him the chance. This duty cannot be acquitted by nine men in judicial robes alone. Their decision must find echo and implementation in every church, college, labor union and legislative assembly —in every group whose concern is human welfare.

This is the Year of the Child. It is the time for vows and ideals to be reaffirmed and reborn.

—Photo by Harold Rhodenbaugh

THE FUTURE THEY BUILD IS NOT ON A BIAS

Mississippi Spurns School Scuttling

Three times the Mississippi Senate was polled, and each time the plan to set up "private" public schools to preserve segregation failed to win approval. A two-thirds majority was needed; the last ballot ended in a tie.

This episode last month at a special session of the state's legislature is solid proof that Byrnes, Talmadge and others err when they assume that the people of the South will readily permit destruction of their educational institutions in the interest of racial discrimination.

Burned Men Denied Aid; "Who Is My Neighbor?"

In many respects the incident was like a biblical parable. Its significance is bitterly clear.

There was a white theological student driving down the highway outside Raleigh, N. C., one day last month.

Beside the road a prison crew was at work. Two Negro prisoners started a fire in an empty oil drum to keep themselves warm. Fumes in the drum exploded and the men were turned into flaming torches.

The theological student stopped, and he and a guard quickly smothered the flames with a tarpaulin. They put the burned men in the car and headed for Mary Elizabeth Hospital in Raleigh.

At the emergency entrance two stretchers were rushed out and the men placed in them. But as they were being carried inside, a woman supervisor blocked the door. "Hey!" she shouted. "We don't treat Negroes here and, besides, we don't have a doctor for them."

She told the student to take the injured men to St. Agnes Hospital, some distance across town. Rather than argue and prolong his passengers' suffering, he complied.

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Lincoln University Offers Scholarships to Whites

To the Editor:

I am inclosing a tiny acknowledgement of my belief in your cause and work. I remember with much pleasure our brief conversation in the train enroute to Tuskegee last summer. We are still wanting some white southern students. We can provide them with rather substantial scholarship assistance; for students entering the second semester, that is, February 1st, a scholarship sufficiently large to leave payable a balance of only about $250.00, and perhaps additional scholarship assistance to reduce the per-semester cost to only about $50-$100.

This cannot be applied to assist students who are exchange students for a brief semester or year. They must enter as fulltime students with the expectation of completing the course. This provision would make it impossible to appeal to college groups, as then we would be proselytizing!

If you have any suggestions, I would appreciate receiving them.

With best wishes to you in your work, I remain,

Sincerely,
HORACE M. BOND,
President, Lincoln University
Lincoln, Pa.

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To the Editor:

I have, within the last two weeks, attended two forums and one lecture—all entirely unsegregated and pleasant. In our Richmond Professional Institute we now have Negro students too,—all happened quietly and without incident or fanfare.

MRS. JOSEPH A. ALEXANDER,
Richmond, Va.

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To the Editor:

It has been some months since I last heard from you. In fact, it was while I was at the University of Wisconsin this summer.

I am now teaching in the junior college here and am enjoying it a great deal. I plan to attend the University of Texas this summer.

BILL CRANE,
Navarro College
Corsicana, Texas
(Delegate to the Columbia Youth Conference)

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To the Editor:

My interest is keen in the work that you and your collaborators are doing. It is essential and too few people realize that.

MARY C. BARKER,
Atlanta, Ga.

To the Editor:

I hereby return your subscription blank and tell you that I am not in accord with your aims. I am over 60 and have lived in Africa and other continents and have counted many colored persons amongst my friends. What you are trying to do will only hasten what will happen anyway. For your information: I have reason to believe that quite a number of colored and semi-colored races will succeed in wiping themselves out within 25 years. The next war and its aftermath will clean up many now irksome conditions.

FREDERICK G. HEHR,
Santa Monica, Cal.

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To the Editor:

A friend in Florida sent me a copy of your publication. I enclose a Post Office money order in amount of two dollars, for which please enroll me as a subscriber. I was Southern reared and I know the problem, and I want to help along in this work.

JOHN EVANS,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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To the Editor:

I received your card regarding the television debate. Unfortunately I received it at too late a date to use my influence to gain a backing. I will be back in West Virginia the first of the year and will be available then to serve our cause.

Please accept this money order to further your efforts. I anxiously await the Supreme Court decision.

HENRY B. DANIELS

In 1952 Lt. Daniels, now in the armed forces overseas, won 2nd prize in the SCEF contest for Student Editors for the best editorial on "Segregation in Education".

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To the Editor:

Enclosed is my check for the amount of five dollars, ($5.00), in payment of my membership for one year. Please forgive me for my delinquencies in making payment during the past two years. It has been due, in part, to my absence from the country. It certainly is not indicative of any lack of interest in the work of the organization. You have done, and are doing, an excellent job. I am happy to support the organization as best I can.

CLIFTON R. JONES,
Morgan State College
Baltimore, Md.

To the Editor:

I think the colored people need to be taught birth control. It will be of more value than non-segregation.

I believe in quality instead of quantity. The population is increasing so fast all over the world there maybe more people than now and not have enough to eat.

MR. EDNA WALFORD,
Norfolk, Va.

* * *

To the Editor:

I am ashamed of any white man who kids himself into thinking the white and colored races are equal, they may be it depends on how you may look at it. I am white, and Irish, and I have no desire to mingle socially with any of the mongrel races, be it Negro, Jewish, Italian, or Asiatic, I don't claim to be any better, but I don't want any mix up socially, I don't want in his church and I don't want him in mine, or to be in his employ or to employ him.

Right now, the pure white man is being driven toward the center of the United States by Mongrel people, and sooner or later I presume some land will be set aside like we did the Indian, and become the vanishing American.

If you are white, I look on you as a traitor to your race. But if you are a high-breed maybe you got something.

I'm not signing this letter, as I do not care to be bothered further, we people understand the colored matters well.

Lowry City, Mo.

SCEF Film is Widely Shown

The film of the debate between SCEF President Aubrey Williams and Governor Talmadge of Georgia is receiving wide distribution.

Last month this 30-minute discussion of segregation in education — originally televised—was shown at Emory University, the University of Alabama, Talladege College, and in Charleston, S. C.; Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

January showings are scheduled at the College of the Bible in Lexington, Ky.; in Birmingham, Ala., Athens and Albany, Ga. and in Houston, Tex. It will be at the University of Mississippi and Oklahoma A&M College in February.

The SCEF is offering this film to interested groups for only the cost of transportation. The film is 16-millimeter and can be played on any projector with a sound track. Requests should be written in time to allow three-to-six weeks for scheduling.

Segregation Setback Upheld

One of the more depressing sights to greet a traveler arriving in Louisville, Kentucky, used to be the Jim Crow waiting room—inevitable at all bus and train terminals. Such segregation was an outdated barbarism, because racial barriers do not exist in other public facilities.

What is more, this segregation was not imposed by law but by the regulations of the private companies concerned. Police assistance in enforcing these regulations gave them the force of law.

Last month this musty arrangement was smashed. After a Negro sitting in the "wrong" waiting room at the Greyhound Bus Station was arrested for disorderly conduct, C. E. Tucker, attorney who is president of Kentucky Bureau of Negro Affairs, dramatically challenged the "law."

He announced his intention to sit in the white waiting room and dared police to arrest him.

This action brought the following statement of policy by Police Chief Carl Heustis:

"All police officers shall refrain from enforcing any regulations regarding segregation which are set forth by private enterprise, which, of course, include bus stations, railroad stations, athletic events, or any other private business that desires to invoke such regulations."

A solid step forward.

—Courtesy CIO News

FOR A COMMON OBJECTIVE, THERE IS NO COLOR LINE

Negro Strikers Aided In Two States

In Port Arthur, Texas, workers—black and white—are on strike seeking recognition for their CIO-affiliated union of store, hotel and restaurant workers.

Despite harrassment by legislative committees vainly hunting Reds the workers stand firm. The CIO-Oil Workers are lending help to the several hundred strikers.

In Louisiana court injunctions virtually halted the strike of AFL farm workers against giant sugar cane plantations.

The union, made up largely of Negro members, gained wide support from the community, with the Catholic Committee of the South taking a leading role.

When the sheriff of Lafourche Parish brutally beat up a Negro striker, Father J. A. Drolet of Thibodaux denounced the sheriff from the pulpit.

Chicago Hospital Still Snubs Patients; Louisville Scene Brightens

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At St. Agnes the hurts of one of the men were diagnosed as critical. Both were placed in bed and are recovering.

Dr. Powell G. Fox of Mary Elizabeth said the men had been turned away because the supervisor believed they would get quicker service elsewhere. "We have, on occasion, given emergency service to colored people."

The theological student, Rev. Marshall M. Vaughn of Wake Forest's Southeastern Baptist Seminary, observed: "We call ourselves the 'crown' of God's creation—a nation founded on the principles of Christianity—but we seem to have forgotten the simple story of the Good Samaritan. Our minds should be refreshed with the parable: 'Who is my neighbor?'"

* * *

Woodlawn Hospital in Chicago denied admission to an injured Negro journalist although the man died within a few hours after arriving at a county hospital across town. This shocking incident which occurred in December of 1949, is detailed in the SCEF pamphlet on hospital discrimination, "The Untouchables."

According to recent report, Woodlawn's policy has not changed for the better. The hospital is required by state law to treat all emergency cases brought by the police, regardless of the patient's color. But after emergency treatment is given, Negro patients are consistently shuttled off to other hospitals if further care is needed.

The Committee to End Discrimination at Woodlawn Hospital reports that a boy who suffered hand and leg fractures was sent away from the emergency room without X-ray, splint or sedatives. His mother was told: "We cannot do anything for him because he is a Negro." This was in 1952.

* * *

In this connection, a letter from a retired Episcopalian bishop living in California might be quoted:

"I read 'The Untouchables' from beginning to end. It makes disheartening reading. On the other hand, since so many of the incidents occurred a good many years ago and there has been such a decided change in the situation in that time, it would seem that a leaflet recording that fact but still telling of what still has to be done, would be more effective. I suspect that some of the hospitals mentioned would now admit such cases as they then refused."

Here are some of the changes that are taking place:

The University of Louisville Medical School became the first in the South to drop racial barriers in faculty hiring. Last month two Negroes received appointments to the U. of L. staff. They were: Dr. Grace James, a woman pediatrician, and Dr. Orville Ballard.

Also in Louisville, General Hospital opened its nurses home for the training of Negro girls. Three private hospitals have already integrated their nursing programs. And the Jefferson County Medical Association has now accepted six Negro doctors as members, including Dr. James.